

our nation's veterans specifically face while serving abroad and at home. As we recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month, I believe that there are important steps that we can all take to acknowledge and prevent suicides among our veteran population.

Each day, an estimated 22 veterans commit suicide, or one veteran every 65 minutes. Veterans commit suicide at more than double the rate of the civilian population, which has totaled to more than 49,000 deaths between 2005 and 2011. Veterans make up nearly one in every five suicides nationwide. This is simply unacceptable.

Our veterans face unspeakable challenges in the defense of our nation. Every day, they must endure mental and emotional trauma while spending months, if not years, in foreign countries away from their family and friends. The unique circumstances of their work often have a lasting impact on their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

As our veterans return home, it is critical that we provide them the sufficient resources and support needed to minimize or reduce any trauma. The Department of Veterans' Affairs, working in conjunction with Members of Congress, has the power to provide this support. Now more than ever, as the number of suicides continues to grow, it is absolutely imperative that we act swiftly and decisively to end this before any more lives are needlessly lost.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to our veterans to address this tragedy now. It is clear that as long as the number of suicides among our veterans continues to increase, there is plenty more that we can do as lawmakers and leaders to minimize the number of tragedies.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,444,833,205.56. We've added \$6,111,567,784,292.48 to our debt in 5 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2013 theme, Hispanics: Serving and Leading Our Nation with Pride and Honor. From September 15, 2013, through October 15, 2013, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the history, culture, and tradition of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins each year on September 15th, the anniversary of the

independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th, respectively. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and tradition of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the countless contributions they have made to their communities and to America.

Throughout America's history, people of Hispanic descent have played a major role in the development and progress of our nation. National Hispanic Heritage Month also celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of society, including medicine, business, arts and entertainment, sports, education, politics, and the military.

America's success is dependent upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of our people. I rise today to pay tribute to the countless Hispanic Americans who have made America a better place to live. For their contributions, they are worthy of our highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Hispanic community has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana and the United States. Let us commend our Hispanic brothers and sisters who have contributed so much to the improvement of our communities and who have helped shape our great nation.

MISSOURIAN AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Bob Beine, Cheryl Burnett, Leon Combs, Charles Edwards, Dwayne Holden, Norm Ridder, Dr. Bharat Shah, Erick Taylor, Mike Williamson, Rudy Farber, C.J. Huff, and Glenna Wallace as this year's recipients of the Missourian Award.

The Missourian Award recognizes Missourians who have positively impacted their communities, state, or nation through contributions in civics, arts, business, or politics.

The late Charles Edwards was awarded for his many years of service at CoxHealth and Cox Medical Plaza. Bob Beine is the president of Beine Automotive Group and has served on the Ford Motor Co. National Dealer Council, the Ozarks Technical Community College Foundation board of directors, and the Springfield First Community Bank board of directors. Cheryl Burnett is director of development for Missouri State University, and served as coach of the Missouri State women's basketball team and is a member of two halls of fame. Leon Combs is the chair of the Skaggs Foundation and owner of the Beaver Creek Elk and Cattle Ranch.

Dwayne Holden leads Custom Metalcraft Inc., a small business he started in 1977 that focuses on customized metal work. Norm Ridder has served as an advocate for chil-

dren's issues, serving for eight years as Springfield Public Schools' superintendent. Dr. Bharat Shah has promoted health care innovation through his invention of four different medical devices. Erick Taylor is the president and CEO of Pyramid Foods, which operates 48 stores in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas and frequently holds charity events. Mike Williamson led Empire Bank for 26 years and has held a number of leadership roles in the community.

Glenna Wallace has been the chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe since 2006. Rudy Farber has served as CEO and president of Community Bank and Trust and former chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. C.J. Huff was honored for his service as the superintendent of the Joplin R-VIII school district.

Each of these recipients has served the community and nation in a unique way and made a positive impact for Southwest Missouri. The hard work and dedication to their respective fields and to the community displayed by these leaders is exceptional.

I am proud of these honorees for each receiving the 2013 Missourian Award and even prouder to call them my neighbors; they make such an incredible positive impact on the Southwest Missouri community. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their achievements.

COMMENDING DR. ARTHUR N. MARTINEZ

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Arthur N. Martinez for his leadership of 20 years to El Rio Community Health Center, in Tucson, Arizona, one of the biggest community health centers in the Nation. Dr. Martinez's personal outreach and accomplishments have been instrumental to Arizona. Dr. Martinez has worked diligently to improve the quality of health care to the underserved in the community.

Dr. Martinez obtained his BS and MD from the University of Arizona in Tucson. He completed his occupational medicine residency at the University of AZ after a general surgery internship and urology residency at the University of TX. Dr. Martinez began as a staff physician at El Rio in 1986. After obtaining his MS in Health Administration from the University of CO, he became the Medical Director of a Medicaid HMO in CA. He has been the Medical Director at El Rio since 1993.

Through his leadership, he has developed systems for El Rio Community Health Center that have rightfully gained national attention. Some of his early accomplishments include a 360 degree provider evaluation system and a physician productivity incentive system. Early in his tenure, he was a quality accreditation expert who assisted other health centers to successfully implement measures to improve quality of care for millions of Americans.

Among his numerous other contributions Dr. Martinez has: created a nationally recognized Clinical Pharmacy Program, developed a residency program from a teaching health center collaboration, integrated oral and behavioral